

On Campus MEN
Soccer: 4 p.m. Friday Aug. 31 vs. Northeastern State
Soccer: 2 p.m. Sunday Sept. 2 vs. Missouri Southern

On Campus WOMEN
No scheduled events

SPORTS



Volleyball 17
Bulldogs compile 3-1 record at season-opening tournament



Jackson Groves/Index

Junior quarterback Matt Tichich receives a snap during the Spring Game last April. Tichich was 14-for-25 for 151 yards and two touchdowns in the team's 38-31 season-opening victory against former MIAA rival University of Missouri-Rolla.

Football takes season opener

Team survives comeback attempt to capture 38-31 victory against UMR Miners

BY BLAKE TOPPMEYER
Assistant Sports Editor

Tyler Fenton's first reception in a Bulldog uniform couldn't have come at a better time. Fenton, the junior transfer from Palomar Junior College (Calif.), was on the receiving end of junior quarterback Matt Tichich's fourth-down pass with 14:48 remaining in the football team's season opener last Saturday at the University of Missouri-Rolla. Tichich passed up an open receiver, who would have picked up the necessary yards for the first down, and instead connected with Fenton for a 36-yard touchdown pass to give the

Bulldogs a 38-31 lead. Tichich said he should have just completed the shorter pass to pick up a first down but was confident Fenton would haul in his pass for a big gain. "I guess in retrospect, I should have hit the back out of the backfield for an easy first down," Tichich said. "I just saw a chance for a big play, and Tyler ran a great route, and he was open." The Bulldog defense held the Miners scoreless in the fourth quarter — including forcing and recovering a fumble at the Truman five-yard line as time expired — and the 'Dogs won the offensive shootout 38-31. The win extended Truman's streak to

22 consecutive victories against the Miners. The Bulldogs have won six of their last seven games dating back to last season. "We definitely needed this first win to start off the season on the right note," Tichich said. "It would have been a long two weeks if we came out of there with a loss." Tichich — the MIAA leader in all-purpose yards in 2006 — was a key component in the Bulldogs compiling 457 yards of total offense. Tichich gained 122 yards rushing and passed for 151 yards. He completed 56 percent of his passes without an interception and spread the ball around to seven different receivers.

"We definitely needed this first win to start the season on the right note."

Matt Tichich
Junior Quarterback

Still, head coach Shannon Currier said he expects to see even greater things in weeks to come from his quarterback. "He's a very good athlete and competitor, but we need to throw the ball better," Currier said. "We didn't complete all our screens, and our three-step game wasn't as good as we need it to be." The driving force behind the Bulldogs' offensive attack was the running game. The 'Dogs gained 305 yards on the ground. Junior running back Jake Cunningham joined Tichich with more than 100 rushing yards and sophomore Phil Kenney chipped in an additional 85 yards. Establishing the run helped the Bulldogs convert nine of 16 third-down attempts. Currier said the running game

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Arrested athletes deserve their fate

What a difference two years makes. Back in December 2005, two Bulldog football players were arrested for an incident outside of the Wooden Nickel. Neither player was suspended. "We have a policy — innocent until proven guilty," Currier told the Index in the January following the incident. This past weekend, three members of Bulldog athletic programs were arrested and charged with a myriad of crimes (details can be found on Page 1). All three were suspended indefinitely.



Joe Barker

Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering wasted no time in handing down judgment on the players. They didn't let the legal system run its course or use the excuse that two of the athletes were on a team that was out of season. The suspension was quick, swift and right. "I don't know what caused the change of heart, and frankly, I don't care. All I care about is that the proper course of action was taken by Wollmering and head coaches Shannon Currier and Jack Schrader. They made the right move. It couldn't have been easy to suspend the three players, but it had to be done. I know this is America, and we have a system of innocent until proven guilty. I get that, and I'm not saying these three individuals are guilty of the crimes they are charged with. The courts will decide that. They are guilty of embarrassing the athletic department, and in my mind, that is a suspendable act. Please see SUSPENSION, Page 19

MIAA teams for 2008-09

- Truman State University
- University of Central Missouri
- Emporia State University
- Fort Hays State University
- Missouri Southern State University
- Missouri Western State University
- University of Nebraska-Omaha*
- Northwest Missouri State University
- Pittsburg State University
- Southwest Baptist University*
- Washburn University

* Will play independent football schedule but remain in the conference for all other sports.
+ New in 2008-09

Design by Joe Barker/Index

MIAA adds Nebraska-Omaha

UNO set to join conference prior to 2008-09 season, creates 11-team league

BY JOE BARKER
Sports Editor

The MIAA logo will need a redesign in 2008. Earlier this summer, the Chief Executive Officer's Council of the Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletics Association accepted the University of Nebraska-Omaha's proposal to bring its 15 varsity-level men's and women's teams into the conference. UNO will become a full member effective at the start of the 2008-09 academic year. "The MIAA, for UNO, is an outstanding fit for us," said David

Miller, UNO director of athletics. "... I believe in the last few years that the MIAA is arguably the best Div. II conference, and with UNO coming into the league, quite frankly, it makes the league that much stronger." The addition of UNO will transform the MIAA from a 10-team league into an 11-team league. The odd number of teams in conference sports such as basketball, volleyball and baseball will create a scheduling problem for the schools. "Right now, the big thing for our fall meeting is, 'How in the heck do we put a basketball schedule together with 11 teams?'" Director of Ath-

letics Jerry Wollmering said. "Every Saturday you're going to have five games and 10 teams, and you got this odd team." The 11-team schedule will force teams not to play on certain days. Wollmering said he didn't want one of his teams to end the season with a bye. "Every weekend you have a weekend series," Wollmering said. "You're going to have one team on the last week of the season with no one to play because of the bye. I don't like that." Wollmering said the MIAA doesn't have a solution to the unbalanced conference but is looking at

"The MIAA, for UNO, is an outstanding fit for us."

David Miller
UNO Director of Athletics

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New assistant athletic director hired

Linda Anderson takes over after B.J. Pumroy took job at VCSU this summer

BY BLAKE TOPPMEYER
Assistant Sports Editor

After eight years of consistency, there has been a changing of the guard in the person second in command of the Bulldogs' athletic department. B.J. Pumroy, the University's assistant athletic director since the summer of 2000, resigned from his position this summer and completed his last day of work June 30. Pumroy — who also served as the Bulldogs' baseball coach from 1993 to 2000 — left the University to take the Athletics Director position at NAIA Valley City State University (N.D.). On Aug. 1, the University filled the vacant position by hiring Linda Anderson as the associate athletic director for compliance and operations. Anderson has worked in athletic administration for 26 years. She previously served as the associate director

of athletics at St. Mary's University (Minn.) for 19 years and most recently was the director of athletics at Maryville University (Mo.) from 2004 to 2006. Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering said Anderson emerged from a field of about 30 applicants to claim the position. During the hiring process, Anderson met with University President Barbara Dixon, forums of coaches and an athletic committee comprised of faculty. Wollmering said Anderson's experience, passion for athletics and Midwest background were major factors in her obtaining the position. "We really appreciate having her here," Wollmering said. "She came in on Aug. 1, and we told her that 105 football players were reporting the next day. So, she didn't really have time to catch her breath. From day one, August is a big month in terms of compliance with all of our fall sports back early." Anderson spent the past 22 years in athletic administration at the Div. III level. But she said she began preparing herself for a Div. II position once she made the decision last December

to leave Maryville. Anderson said she began studying the NCAA Div. II manual and attended Div. II workshops last winter. "As soon as I made my decision to stay in the Midwest, I had to be prepared for Div. II and [Div.] III," Anderson said. "And I just felt like I needed to do my homework in order to be prepared." Anderson said the Bulldogs' associate AD position was appealing because of the location and reputation of the school, along with the makeup of the job. "When the position popped up at Truman, I really liked the fact that the responsibilities included compliance and game management and a lot of game operations, which are the things that I enjoy most in administration," she said. Anderson will oversee the compliance program. This includes making certain that all Bulldog athletes, coaches and teams are meeting NCAA qualifications and regulations. She said one of her major goals will be making the compliance manual available to coaches electronically. Along with the associate AD position, Anderson — the highest ranking female in the athletic program — will

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Changes at the Top

Linda Anderson replaced B.J. Pumroy as assistant athletic director.



B.J. Pumroy

← **Out**

In →



Linda Anderson

Pumroy left to accept the athletic director spot at Valley City State University in North Dakota. He served at Truman for 14 years. Anderson brings 26 years worth of experience to the University.

Anderson's Résumé

- Director of Athletics at Maryville University in St. Louis 2004-2006
- Associate Director of Athletics at St. Mary's University (Minn.) from 1985-2004
- Volleyball and softball coach at St. Mary's
- Interim Director of Women's Athletics, interim volleyball coach and softball coach at Bemidji State (Minn.)

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